

need to change your request so we know what you are talking about. Then we have to sort them out so we know that you don't have three people asking for the same thing in different language. That takes a lot of time.

So if the gentleman thinks that sometimes you're confused, so are we. That's why we were asking for more time.

I want to stipulate one thing. I recommended to this House a proposal that I thought would give us the best possibility of avoiding future embarrassment. This agreement indicates the House wants to go in a somewhat different direction.

That means that with respect to almost all of these bills, we will have less time for our staff to review them than would have been the case under the proposal that I was suggesting.

In my judgment, that means that we will run a higher risk of mistakes than we would have otherwise had, because we will not have the entire month of July for the staff to review these requests.

So I am giving up on that expectation for a higher level of staff review so that we can continue to do the people's business and get through these bills in time for program managers to get funding out for these programs in an orderly manner.

So a lot of us have a lot of complaints about this. I didn't invent the earmark process. If I had my way, there wouldn't be any, as the gentleman knows.

But it's my job as chairman not to pursue what I believe. It's my job to try to find a balanced point in the House that I think will achieve consensus in the House, hopefully between two parties. That's what I would try to do, and I will appreciate the recognition of that fact from the gentleman and every other Member of this body.

Mr. FLAKE. Duly recognized. I think that it argues for far fewer earmarks. You made a comment last year that I agreed to.

Mr. OBEY. Even though the Senate is resisting, I am the person who ended the earmarks. I am the person who put a moratorium on earmarks for a year. You know that two-thirds of your caucus and two-thirds of my caucus were mad as hell at me when I did that.

Mr. FLAKE. I know that.

Mr. OBEY. I am now trying, and so is our leadership, to reduce earmarks by at least 50 percent.

As you know, there are a lot of people who are angry about the fact that we are cutting earmarks by that much.

Mr. FLAKE. I understand that. I know we need to move on. Let me just make one point. I think it is extremely important that the letters requesting the earmarks are made public at the quickest possible time. I will object to any unanimous consent request.

Mr. OBEY. With all due respect, the letters requesting earmarks are not going to be made public. Let me explain what will be made public. I will

take responsibility for every earmark that I recommend. But I have no intention of taking responsibility for somebody's pipe dream that we reject.

Mr. FLAKE. Oh, no, I am talking about those that are approved, that are going into the bill.

Mr. OBEY. I have already told you those will be available. I don't know how many times I have to chew my tongue, but I have already told you.

Mr. FLAKE. But what I am saying is outside groups have come as well. They would like access. I share the gentleman's pain in trying to go through and review these. That's why it would be useful at the quickest possible time to let outside groups as well review these.

Mr. OBEY. With all due respect, we will comply with the House Rules. That's the best assurance I can give the gentleman.

Mr. FLAKE. That's what I am after. Madam Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

#### LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have had a discussion with, not directly with the minority leader, but on the representation of the minority leader, I have discussed with the ranking member, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. PRICE and the chairman of the committee.

It will be our intention to roll all votes until tomorrow morning, so that there is no expectation that there will be any more votes tonight for Members. The debate will be concluded.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. What time may we expect to come in tomorrow?

Mr. HOYER. Nine o'clock.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. At what time may we expect some floor votes tomorrow?

Mr. HOYER. Probably about 9:10 or so, just about 9 o'clock.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Thank you.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. SHAYS asked me informally when we are getting out. We are working on a unanimous consent agreement between the minority and the majority on the MILCON bill, and that will hopefully facilitate us getting out. I will tell you the minority and majority both believe it ought to be relatively brief, as the MILCON bill has been in the past.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 2638 pursuant to House Resolution 473, the Chair

may reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVII and clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2638.

□ 2044

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2638) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, with Mr. ROSS (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, the bill had been read through page 3, line 10, and pending was amendment No. 9 by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE).

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, that amendment shall be debatable for 10 further minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and opponent. No further amendment to the bill may be offered except those specified in the previous order of the House of today, which is at the desk.

The gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment reduces the Office of the Secretary of Management \$10.4 million, and increases ICE salaries and the expense account by \$9.1 million, restoring the funding that was in the President's budget to fund the 287(g) program.

□ 2045

I chose this account because between 2007 and 2008 budgets, it has increased 60 percent, or a total increase of \$89 million. The 287(g) program provides training, technology, and resources to local law enforcement officers to work with the Federal Government, with ICE, to identify illegal aliens who have broken our laws.

This is a voluntary program available to both our State and local governments. Currently, it is implemented in 13 locations. One of the most prominent of these is Sheriff Pendergraf in North Carolina, who has detained and deported 1,900 illegal criminal aliens in the last year.

America saw the very tragic accident that occurred in Virginia Beach that took the lives of two beautiful young women at the hands of an illegal alien